



October 13, 2010

Ms. Anne Neville
Program Director
State Broadband Data and Development Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert C. Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Commonwealth of Kentucky Broadband Mapping Project October 2010 Data Delivery

### Dear Ms. Neville:

We are pleased to submit our second formal data submission, the first semi-annual update, for the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) program. This data submission meets the requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), as amended by subsequent clarifications, and the SBDD Data Transfer Model. We deem it to be complete, insofar as it includes all validated data received from the broadband providers willing to cooperate under the program. Details of the data development and validation methodologies that were used to aggregate and verify this data are provided in Attachment A.

The data submission uploaded to the secure ftp site is a zip file package (20101001\_KY.zip), which contains the following two (2) files:

- FILE\_BASED\_GEODATABASE\_KY.ZIP contains the spatial files using the SBDD Data Transfer Model stored in a file-based geodatabase format;
- KY\_DATA\_PACKAGE.XLS documents data package and contents of the geodatabase.

KY\_DATA\_PACKAGE.XLS provides the requested contact information, list of submitted files and detailed table indicating the name and status of all 104 companies contacted, regardless of whether their data is included in this delivery, along with details on the corresponding records included in this data submission. Any additional information concerning Provider submittals and validations results are included in the Provider Table comments column.

Please note that our data validation process now includes verification against the front end business logic rules provided in the SBDD Data Transfer Model. When an inconsistency was detected between a business logic rule and the Provider data, additional outreach was conducted, and in many cases the Provider feedback indicated that their submitted data was indeed valid. In these cases, we have included the provided data and indicated the inconsistency in the Provider tab of the KY\_DATA\_PACKAGE.XLS in the Comments column.

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The following Table presents the Broadband Provider participation status for this submittal.

Broadband Service Provider Participation Statistics		
Category	No. of Providers	
Providers That Have Submitted Data	59	
Providers That Have Partial Submitted Data	2	
Providers That Have Submitted Data that was Rejected	1	
Providers That Have Submitted Data That Needs Further Verification	2	
Providers Contacted That Will Not Submit Data	7	
Providers That Were Non Responsive	18	
Providers Contacted But Have Not Provided Data	14	
Provider That submitted May 18 Data, But Non Responsive This Time	1	
Total Providers	104	
Providers Included in this October Data Submittal	60	

Following is an update on our project status since the initial data submittal on May 28, 2010. The matrix below indicates the progress made since that initial submittal.

Broadband Service Provider Participation Statistics Since Last Submittal			
Category	May 2010	October 2010	
Total Providers	95	104	
Submitted Data	57	65	
Not Submitted	29	14	
Will Not Participate	6	7	
No Response	3	18	

Data collection related to Community Anchor Institution connectivity has improved significantly since the May 28 submittal. Since then, broadband connectivity data has been collected from various state agencies. An online survey tool was also deployed to collect pertinent broadband connectivity from CAIs. To date, we have collected broadband data on 29 % of the identified 3353 CAIs in this data submittal. Data collection will continue for subsequent data submittals.

Community Anchor Institution Statistics			
Category	May 2010	October 2010	
Schools (K-12)	1910	1085	
Library	222	224	
Medical/Healthcare	405	348	
Public Safety	587	633	
University, College, Other Post-Secondary	140	140	
Other Community Support, Government	706	684	
Other Community Support, Non-Government	619	239	

The Broadband Mapping data collected through the SBDD program will be made available to the public online via a searchable, interactive interface very shortly. The beta version of this mapping tool, which is currently

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undergoing review and testing, is available at <a href="http://www.bakerbb.com/kybroadbandmapping/">http://www.bakerbb.com/kybroadbandmapping/</a>. We will notify NTIA once development has been finalized and provide the official URL once this map goes live.

In summary, we are pleased with the progress to date on our Broadband Mapping effort. We believe provider participation to date has been good and are confident that our team is working hard to fulfill the obligations under the program. We welcome your feedback on any aspect of this delivery so that we can improve our processes for subsequent deliveries.

Sincerely,

Steve Landers Commonwealth Office of Technology Office of Enterprise Technology Commonwealth of Kentucky

Attachment

cc: Bob Lois, MBJ

# Commonwealth of Kentucky State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) Broadband Mapping Development Process





NTIA Data Submittal
October 1, 2010
Attachment A





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### Introduction

The following sections of this document provide an overview of the process used for the SBDD Broadband Mapping data development for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The following narrative is depicted in Figure 3, Commonwealth of Kentucky SBDD Process Workflow included at the end of this document.

### **Broadband Provider Outreach**

The following outreach procedure provides the framework for communicating with Broadband Service Providers (Providers). The primary goals of the outreach approach documented herein are to:

- Promote Provider understanding and acceptance of the Broadband Mapping process, results, and benefits
- Clarify NTIA Broadband Mapping requirements
- Facilitate data confidentiality agreements as required
- Minimize the submittal of invalid data
- Enhance the understanding of the semi-annual update process
- Work with Providers to evaluate submittal options to facilitate data submittals

### **Data Submission Guidelines**

Guidelines for the Providers submission of of Broadband Mapping Data are documented in the "Data Submission Guidelines". These Guidelines define technical requirements, submission specifications, and coordination and documentation activities.

# **Kentucky Broadband Providers Website**

A URL was deployed (<a href="http://www.bakergis.com/kyBroadbandProvider/">http://www.bakergis.com/kyBroadbandProvider/</a>) to distribute NTIA NOFA requirements along with outreach and data submittal materials including:

- NTIA NOFA and subsequent clarification
- Outreach letters to providers
- Non-Disclosure Agreement
- Data Submission Guidelines
- Data Transmittal Letter
- Broadband Data Submittal Templates
- TIGER Data
- Data Submittal Assistance Contact Information

# **Outreach Delivery Vehicles**

 A State Broadband Mapping Initiative Call for Data letter from the Kentucky Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) was emailed to all Broadband Service Providers in the Commonwealth. This initial provider contact letter described the program and the role of Michael baker Jr., Inc. (Baker) acting on behalf of the COT for Broadband Data Collection and Mapping.



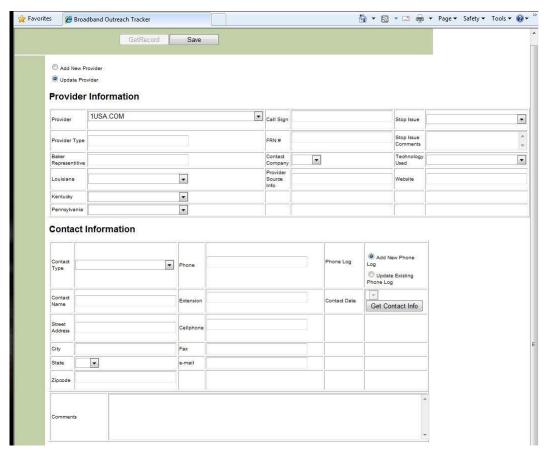
SBDD Broadband Mapping Development Process

- Baker distributed a follow-up letter to all Providers describing the data submittal requirements and material and help available to aid with the data submittals.
- Submittal assistance was provided to providers that needed help with data submittals.
- Presentations were conducted with various broadband provider associations to present the data submittal requirements and answer questions.
- Email communication and electronic transfer of data was encouraged to facilitate a faster delivery of data and information.
- A URL was deployed and promoted to distribute outreach material and information concerning the Broadband Mapping Project.
- A secure FTP URL was provided for submittal of broadband data by providers.

# **Broadband Outreach Tracker Application**

The Tracker application (Figure 1) was utilized to collect all correspondence with Providers and feedback on the effectiveness of the outreach activities by tracking items such as:

- The number and content of incoming e-mails and letters submitted from the Providers
- The number and source of comments, questions, and suggestions made by Providers
- The number and source of comments, questions, and suggestions made by attendees at Provider meetings and conference calls
- Provider contact information and data submittal status.





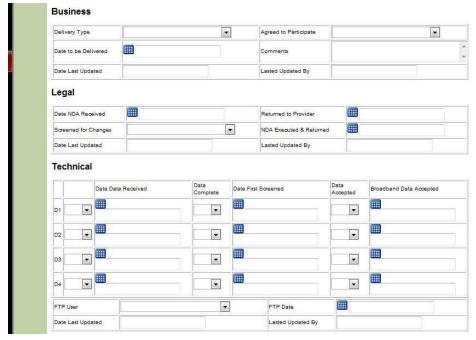


Figure 1 Broadband Outreach Tracker

### **Provider Submittal Validation**

When a data submittal is received from a broadband service provider it is updated in the Broadband Outreach Tracker and run through an initial validation process to assure that it meets the submittal guidelines.

### **Validation Checklist**

The following items are part of this initial data validation process:

- Verify Transmittal Letter is complete and matches submitted data
- Verify the file naming conventions
- Verify each file is machine readable
- Verify data is in the correct GIS or Tabular format/file type
- Verify each field is populated and no empty or NULL values are present for mandatory fields
- Verify all ID (record number points) are unique within the submittal
- Verify all attribute data is formatted according to the submittal guidelines
- Verify topology for all geospatial submissions
- Verify Metadata for all submissions
- Verify the required contact information is included
- Verify adherence to Data Submittal Guidelines (see <a href="http://www.bakergis.com/kyBroadbandProvider/">http://www.bakergis.com/kyBroadbandProvider/</a> to access Data Submittal Guidelines)

# Broadband Service Availability (at least one)

- Individual Street Addresses (Sec 3.1 & 4.1)
- Census Blocks < 2 sq mi (3.3 & 4.3)
- Street Segments for Census Blocks > 2 sq mi (3.2 & 4.2)
- Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Area (Sec 3.4 & 4.4)
- Polygonal Boundary Area(s) (Sec 4.8)



Subscriber-Weighted Nominal Speed Data (Sec 3.5 & 4.5)
Middle-mile Points (Sec 3.6 & 4.6)
Community Anchor Institutions (Sec 3.7 & 4.7)
Optional Data
Last Mile Connection Points (Sec 3.8 & 4.9)

# **Data Usability Determination**

The validation results are evaluated by the outreach and aggregation persons to determine the usability of the data. If the data meets the submission specifications, it is forwarded on for data aggregation. If it is determined to be unusable, it is returned to the Broadband Service Provider for resolution. If the data can be manipulated to get it into a usable format, it is manipulated as required, and then forwarded on for data aggregation.

# **SBDD Data Development**

The data from the Broadband Service Providers may be submitted in various formats as defined in the Data Submittal Guidelines, or in some cases unspecified formats to help facilitate provider participation. Depending on the format of the submitted data, it is processed through one of the following processes to upgrade it to the NTIA SDBB data standards.

# **Spatial Data**

After validation and any required manipulation of any spatial data submitted by the Broadband Service Providers, it is georeferenced and simply loaded into the appropriate NTIA geodatabase feature class.

# **Address Data Geocoding**

If not already in the standard address point template, the provider tabular address data is first loaded into that template. The data is then exported to a geodatabase table using the ArcGIS Conversion Tools. ArcGIS geocoding tools are then utilized geospatially locate the address points for the tabular records. Interactive address rematching is performed against two additional street centerline datasets as needed to increase geocoding matching results. The NTIA deliverable is the geocoded address point geodatabase table. The geocoded address points are also subsequently aggregated to the census block or road segment feature class for public web map display.

# **Census Block Aggregation**

If not already in the standard census block template, the provider tabular census block data is first loaded into that template. The data is then exported to a geodatabase table using the ArcGIS Conversion Tools. The Provider tabular census block records are then joined to the geodatabase 2000 U.S. Census Block. This join is performed as many times as necessary for multiple Trans Tech values for each Provider/Census Block combination. The NTIA deliverable is the census block geodatabase table.

If the list of census blocks contains blocks > 2 sq. miles then these blocks are used to select all the 2000 U.S. Census TIGER centerlines that intersect those blocks. The Census Block record data is aggregated to each Road Segment within the Census Block. This process is performed as many times as necessary for multiple Trans Tech values for each Provider/Census Block combination.



# **Road Segment Aggregation**

If not already in the standard road segment template, the provider road segment data is first loaded into that template. The data is then exported to a geodatabase table using the ArcGIS Conversion Tools. If the provider submittal included graphic centerline segments, these are migrated into the delivery geodatabase along with the linked attribute records. If the provider submittal was tabular road segment records only, they are then joined to the geodatabase 2000 U.S. Census TIGER centerline feature class. This join is performed as many times as necessary for multiple Trans Tech values for each Provider/Road Segment combination. The NTIA deliverable is the road segment geodatabase table.

If the provider road segment data lie within census blocks <= 2 sq. miles then the road segment data is aggregated to the census block. This process is performed as many times as necessary for multiple Trans Tech values for each Provider/Road Segment combination. The NTIA deliverable is the road segment geodatabase table.

# **Overview Data Aggregation**

Subscriber-Weighted Nominal Speed data, or Provider Service Availability Areas submitted for entire county areas are loaded into the NTIA geodatabase Overview table. If not already in the standard template, the provider data is first loaded into that template. The data is then exported to a geodatabase table using the ArcGIS Conversion Tools. The Provider Overview records are then joined to the geodatabase 2000 U.S. Census County feature class. This join is performed as many times as necessary for multiple Trans Tech values for each Provider/County Area combination.

# **Polygonal Boundary Aggregation/Integration**

Broadband Service Providers submitting polygonal service area data is handled in two ways. Wireline Provider data is aggregated to the census block feature class for areas where census blocks <= 2 sq. mi., or road segment feature class for areas where census blocks > 2 sq. mi. Wireless Provider Service Availability Areas submitted by polygonal area are simply loaded into the NTIA geodatabase Poly Bndry feature class.

### **Wireline Provider**

The polygonal data is georeferenced and loaded into the Poly\_Bndry feature class. The polygon is then attributed, manually if necessary. Depending on the area, census blocks < or => 2 sq. mi., a selection set of either census blocks or road segments that intersect the polygon boundary is created. The attributed polygon boundary is then joined with census blocks or road segments table to attribute accordingly. This join is performed as many times as necessary for multiple Trans Tech values for each Provider/County Area combination. The NTIA deliverable is the census block or road segment geodatabase table.

### **Wireless Provider**

The polygonal data is georeferenced and loaded into the Poly\_Bndry feature class. The polygon is then attributed, manually if necessary. Multiple Poly\_Bndry records are created for multiple Trans Tech values for each Provider. The NTIA deliverable is the polygon boundary geodatabase table.



# Middle/Last Mile Data Integration

If not already in the standard template, the data is first loaded into that template. The data is then exported to a geodatabase table using the ArcGIS Conversion Tools. The point features are geo-located utilizing the lat/long information provided. The NTIA deliverable is the middle or last mile geodatabase table.

# **Community Anchor Institution Integration**

Broadband Service Providers provided some Community Anchor Institution (CAI) data with the data submittals. But the majority of the data was collected from existing GIS Layers maintained by the COT on their KYGEONET public website.

### **Provider CAIs**

If not already in the standard template, the data is first loaded into that template. The data is then exported to a geodatabase table using the ArcGIS Conversion Tools. The point features are geo-located utilizing the lat/long information provided. Address data is used to geocode locations only when Lat/Long data is not provided.

### **KYGEONET CAIS**

CAI shapefiles were downloaded from the KYGEONET website. The shapefiles were then exported to the NTIA geodatabase CAI feature class. Various sources for obtaining broadband information for the CAIs were utilized. Various state agencies provided some of the information, i.e.; Council on Post Secondary Education (CPE) provided tabular broadband information for schools and libraries, COT provided tabular broadband information for health departments. A CAI data survey website was also deployed and the URL distributed by various state agencies to the CAI contacts. Data from all of these sources were then aggregated into the CAI geodatabase table for the NTIA deliverable.

### **Provider Validation**

After data development, service availability maps are generated and submitted to the providers to validate their mapping results. This provides a "sign off" on the interpretation of the submitted data and extends the outreach efforts by providing a visual representation of the data to be delivered to the State and the NTIA.

# **Types of Provider Maps**

Provider maps generally consist of the following types.

### **Outreach Maps**

Often time's providers will send data which does not contain all the information needed for a NTIA compliant dataset. In such cases, as an aid to the outreach communication, it may be necessary to produce a map to help the provider locate their service area or verify data they have provided. These maps may take many forms but generally are of two types:

General Location Maps – these maps are often produced when the provider does not have a list of address
or other standard submittal data and needs help defining their service area. A typical map will show
counties, major roads, and towns of the general area the provider has stated as their service area. The
intent of the map is to give the provider a way to markup or delineate their service area. If a provider has
not provided required attribute information such as Technology of Transmission, Speed Data, etc. then it



may be necessary to add a visual clue to this data like an information stamp on the map that they can easily fill out. If the provider send the map back with a service area boundary, this can then be digitized and sent back to the provider for verification.

Verification of Provider Supplied Boundaries – these maps are produced when the provider has sent service
area boundary information which is confusing or otherwise unclear. Often these are produced when
providers send CAD maps, hand drawn maps that need digitization, or lists of zip codes or counties served.
A typical map will place the interpreted boundary over a location map so the provider can verify the service
area. As with the General Location Map, information stamps or other visual clues may be placed on the
map.

### **Initial Verification Maps**

Once the provider data has been processed and the census block and road segment feature classes created, an Initial Verification Map is produced to give the provider a visual representation of their service area by census block. These maps enable the provider to verify their service area and make changes if necessary. Initial Verification Maps are produced using a set of standards and produced at the highest resolution necessary to convey the map information to the provider. Initial Verification Maps are also produced for Wireless Polygon areas.

### **Detailed Verification Maps**

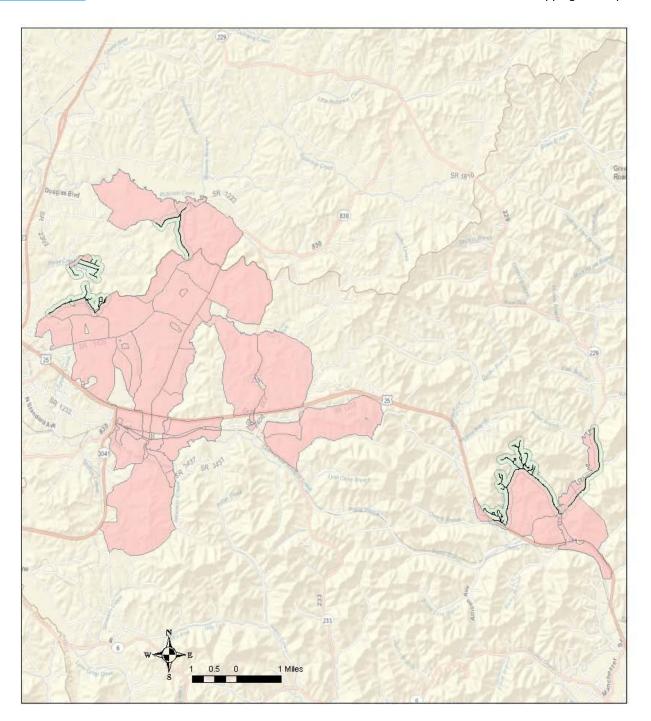
Providers who have questions about their service areas may request additional information to help clarify issues. In these cases it may be necessary to create a Detailed Verification Map to highlight the areas in question. Detailed Verification Maps provide the same information as Initial Verification Maps only at a higher resolution. Several maps may be needed to accurately portray an area in question.

### **Revised Maps**

Revised maps take two forms:

- Initial or Detailed Verification Maps which have been annotated or marked-up by the provider
- Outreach produced Initial or Detailed Verification Maps incorporating provider changes





# **Eastern Cable Corporation**

Census Block / Road Segment Coverage

Road Segment Coverage as depicted on broadband maps is defined as a 500 foot buffer around existing roads in census blocks greater than 2 square miles in area. Unnamed and other lesser roads may not be shown on the maps. Absence of road features does not necessarily indicate broadband service is unavailable.

Figure 2 Provider Map

# Legend





### **Data Validation**

A critical component of the project is the validation of the data submitted by the broadband service providers. Data from various sources, as described in more detail in the following sections, is utilized to develop a level of confidence in the data received from the broadband providers.

# **Validation Data Set Collection and Development**

This validation process employs data sets developed or acquired from different sources as described in the following sections.

<u>Stakeholder Validation</u>: Maps of completed Provider service areas and data are furnished back to the Providers for confirmation of the processed/aggregated information. Feedback is integrated into the each Provider's dataset.

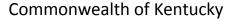
Strategic Networks Group (SNG) Wireline Market Intelligence Data: Data is extracted from internal and commercial databases defining geographic service areas of telephone and cable companies and locations of central office (CO) switches and areas upgraded with fiber. The geographic areas are overlaid with Census demographic data on housing unit counts and density. The areas are then modified based on standard business practices for conducting service build-out and offering broadband service relative to housing density and other variables, such as distance from CO and other infrastructure elements, type of cable franchise (e.g., Census Place vs. Unincorporated County) This represents the first pass conservative estimate of coverage.

The above methods and data sources are supplemented by other data sources and methodologies, including: 1) connectivity data points acquired from InfoUSA that include ISP and type of connection (e.g., DSL, cable modem, dial-up, wireless, fiber) providing Internet service to specific geo-coded (i.e., by Latitude and Longitude) residential addresses; 2) web-based and telephone research, including address-level service-availability queries of web sites operated by service providers and independent entities. This multi-sourced SNG dataset is used as a validation source for provider service area coverage, Technology of Transmission, and Speed.

<u>American Roamer Wireless Market Intelligence Data</u>: Commercially available dataset used as an independent source to verify information submitted by Providers of wireless broadband service. This dataset is used as a validation source for provider service area coverage.

Strategic Networks Group (SNG) Targeted Online Surveys: Questionnaires (e-mail/web based) have been sent directly to businesses and households, including over-sampling in rural area and those where the above conservative estimate indicates are "unserved" and "underserved" areas. In addition to collecting broadband supply data on type of access, speeds, price, etc. questionnaires gather broadband service demand and usage data from businesses, organizations, and households. Survey responses include geographic coordinates that allow mapping and cross-reference to census blocks or street segments. This dataset is used as a validation source for provider service area coverage, Technology of Transmission, and Speed.

Online Public Survey and Speed Test: A Broadband Mapping Public Survey Site is deployed. Site visitors are requested to provide data on broadband availability, technology, service type (e.g., speed tier) service provider name; monthly prices paid and measured downstream and upstream speeds. In addition to State promotion via press releases to the general public, the State Council on Post Secondary Education (CPE) also promoting





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participation on this survey to the faculty and student population. This dataset is used as a validation source for provider service area coverage, Technology of Transmission, and Speed.

<u>Prior Broadband Mapping</u>: Statewide coverage areas for Cable, DSL, and Fixed Wireless providers that were aggregated as part of a previous broadband mapping effort for the Commonwealth of Kentucky are used to validate against Provider submitted data. In addition to the service areas, the DSL and Fixed Wireless layers contain general speed information that can be compared against Provider submitted data.

<u>FCC Speed Test</u>: The FCC speed test data and researched Provider by assigned IP address ranges dataset is used as a validation source for provider service coverage and typical speeds.

<u>Field Data Acquisition</u>: Broadband technicians visited a sampling of census block locations to gather broadband data to be used for validation. The following criteria were taken into account when developing the census block sampling dataset:

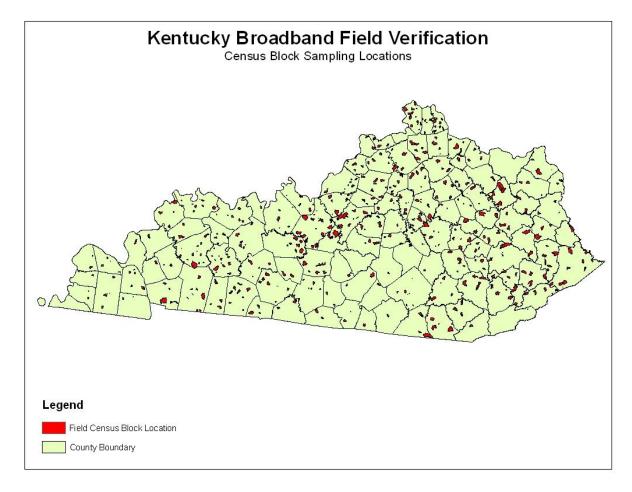
- urban vs. rural census block characteristic
- censes block grouping
- land vs. water census block characteristic

The overarching mission of the Federal program is to provide Broadband service to areas that are currently unserved and underserved. Also, the market intelligence validation sources typically represent some rural, but more urban areas. Thus, our field data collection efforts were targeted more towards the rural areas; split 90% rural, 10% urban.

Additionally, a study by Penn State University (Glasmeier 2002) notes that a large number of block groups typically fit within any given cable or telephone company service areas. Therefore, our field sample was also based on selection of one census block per block group. The selected census block also was greater than 50% land versus water. There are a total of 3, 158 census block groups in Kentucky. Using a statistical sample size calculator based upon the number of block groups in the state and +/- 4% margin of error at a 95% confidence level, the sample size is 529 census block locations.

For the 529 census blocks that were visited, 2455 individual wired/wireless data elements were recorded and 3024 pictures were taken at those locations. This field collected dataset is used as a validation source primarily for wireline and wireless technology of transmission and middle mile, and for wireless speed.





**Figure 3 Field Verification Sampling Locations** 

For each census block in the sample set, broadband technicians collected data using Panasonic Toughbook computers, loaded with MapPoint mapping software, and a customized Microsoft Access data collection form with the ability to automatically import GPS coordinates. The sample census blocks were pre-loaded and directly accessible from MapPoint. Two types of data collection were conducted; infrastructure observation and wireless speed testing; and the results were recorded and linked to the corresponding field location coordinates within the designated sample census block.

The information collected by the field broadband technicians includes:

# Wireline:

- circuit infrastructure feeding the area (copper, fiber, cable)
- collect site pictures

### Wireless:

- GPS coordinates
- internet speed test

This field collected dataset is used as a validation source primarily for wireline and wireless technology of transmission and middle mile, and for wireless speed.



### **Provider Data Validation Process**

<u>Stakeholder Feedback</u>: Feedback received from the providers and/or regional Areas Development Districts is visually inspected and integrated directly into the mapping GIS database.

<u>Service Area Validation Data:</u> The SNG wireline service area data is tabular and contains a separate record for each provider/technology of transmission combination with an associated census block or TIGER road segment, depending on the whether the size of the census block area (=/< or > 2 sq. mi.). This data is exported into an ArcGIS data format. The American Roamer and Prior Mapping service area data is already in and ArcGIS data format. The validation data is then joined to the Provider service area data by census block or TIGER road segment ID. Any database records in the Provider or Validation tables that cannot be joined are output to a separate layer that indicates the areas of discrepancy between the two datasets. The joined tables are then queried to detect any speed discrepancies which are also output to a separate discrepancy layer.

<u>Online Surveys and Field Validation Data:</u> The Public and Targeted Business/Household survey and field data are also collected in tabular database format, and represent a specific lat/long spatial location for each record. This data is exported into ArcGIS data format, joined to the provider data, queried to validate pertinent attribution. Again, records not joined and or with detected attribution discrepancies are output to separate GIS layers.

<u>Business Logic Rules</u>: Model Builder is used to build a model of GIS geo-processing tools to validate that the broadband data is consistent with the front end business logic rules of the SBDD Data Transfer Model.

<u>Topology</u>: The ArcGIS Validate Topology Tool is used to flag any topology issues in the broadband data. Flagged issues are reviewed to identify false positives and update true errors as required.

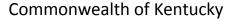
# October 1, 2010 Validation Reporting

An accumulation process is executed on the data comparison results. A matched percentage will be obtained through the process for each of the database records. The matched percentage for each record is the result of the total count of the matched validations for the record divided by the total count of all the validations for the record. The matched percentage for each of the record will be summarized and then divided by the total count of the records to create the final matched percentage for the specific provider.

# **Future Validation and Confidence Level Reporting**

<u>Confidence Level Reporting</u>: Identified areas of discrepancy will be flagged for reporting confidence level of the data per provider at census block and road segment level. The plan is to then input these unit confidence levels into a statistical model to develop confidence levels for each of the broadband service providers. Deployment of this automated statistical reporting process is scheduled before the April 1, 2011 delivery to the NTIA.

<u>Audit of Wireless Broadband Availability Reporting</u>: Wireless coverage is evaluated using a contour calculation tool, with key inputs being transmitter location and, where available, data on spectrum power levels and other relevant transmission factors provided by carriers and/or supplemented by data available from public web sites and other sources. Data will then be input to a contour calculation tool to provide estimates of fixed wireless broadband coverage areas. This dataset is used as a source to determine gaps in provider wireless service area coverage. The Prior Mapping data is also used as a validation source for gap analysis.

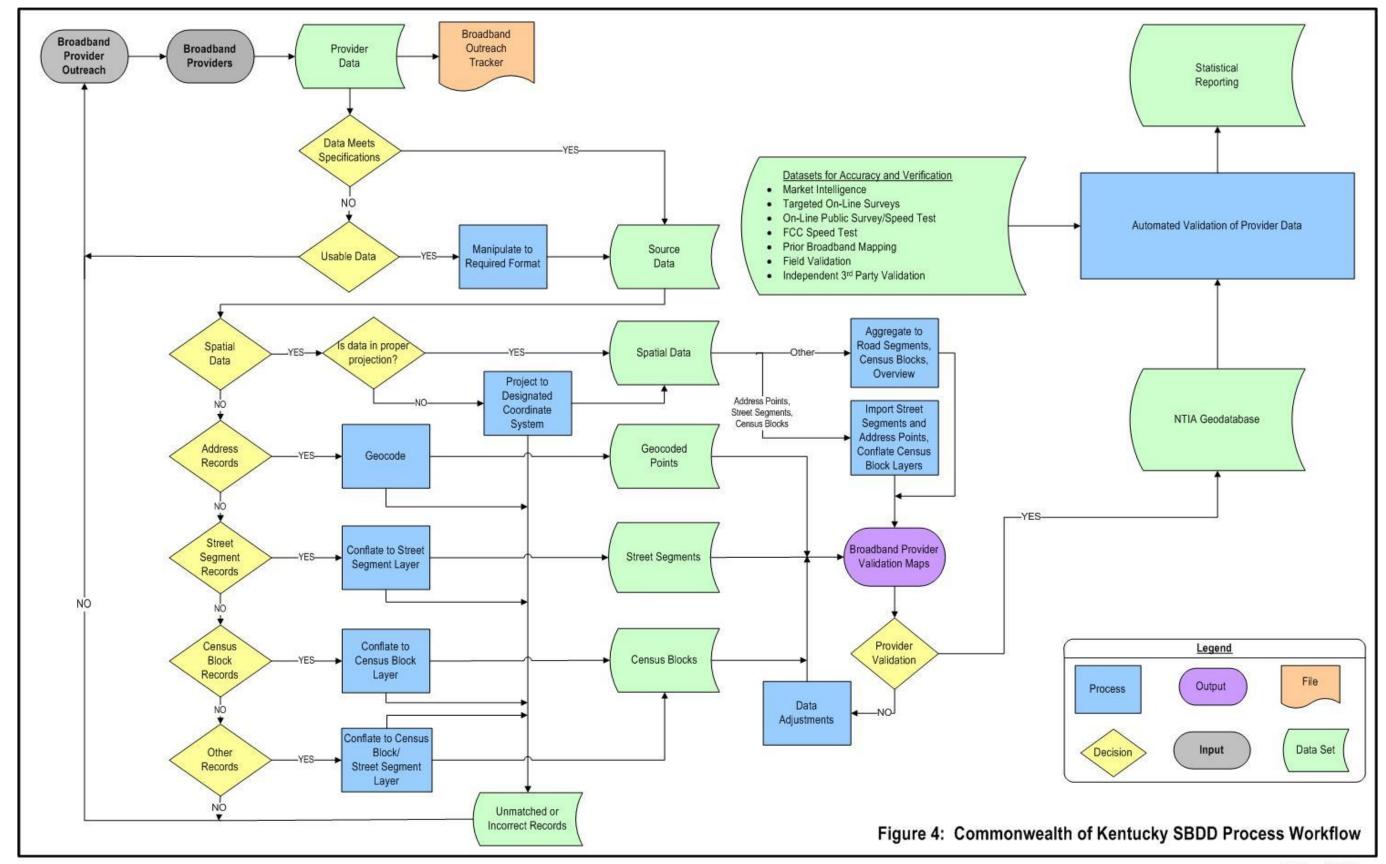




**SBDD Broadband Mapping Development Process** 

<u>Validation by Independent Third-Party</u>: As described during the grant application process and subsequent documents describing scope of work, the Commonwealth has entered into an agreement with a team of geospatial and telecommunications experts representing colleges and universities around the Commonwealth. This contract was expected to be executed early in the process, however due to circumstances beyond control there was a delay. While the contract has only recently been executed, the team has been working since project inception to validate the mapping vendor collection methodologies and offer guidance and input for validation activities conducted by the mapping vendor and described above. The university team began work over the summer to validate the collected data as described in their scope of work for the April 2011 delivery.





October 1, 2010